(b) The amount of foreign exchange earned from the export of handicrafts including hand knitted carpets during the last 3 years is as under:—

	(Rs. in crores)
1994-95	4458.30
1995-96	4980.15
1996-97 (Upto July)	1946.83

(c) The steps taken by the Government to increase the export of handicrafts items includes sponsoring of sales-cum-study team abroad; organisation of buyer-seller's meet, participation in international fairs and exhibitions, overseas publicity and publication of catalogues and organisation of Indian Handicrafts and Gift Fair and Carpet Expo annually.

Involvement of Defence forces in rescue operation in Andhra Pradesh

1978. SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA: DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Army, Navy and Air Force were involved in the rescue and relief operations during the recent Cyclone in Coastal Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the extent and their achievements in these operations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Rescue and relief operations were carried out by Army, Navy and Air Force during the recent cyclone in Coastal Andhra Pradesh. On 8th November, 1996, 10 medical officers, 107 medical assistants with six ambulances were deployed for providing medical assistance in cyclone affected area. A total of 390 patients were treated.

The Air Force flew 23 helicopter sorties from 10th to 19th November, 1996 involving airlifting of 23.645 tons of load and 7 passengers. Between 8 to 10 November, 1996 two Indian Navy ships and two Indian Navy helicopters along with one Coast Guard ship and one Coast Guard aircraft carried out simultaneous search and rescue operations and provided flood relief. More than 20 sorties were carried out involving the dropping of 1200 kgs of food packets and medicines to stranded people. About 50 to 60 bodies were located over land and reported to relief centres. 7 more bodies were picked up at sea. A trawler with five fishermen was located, the boat repaired and the crew provided with food and medicine. A life raft was air dropped for the survivors of the boat to come ashore.All officers and men of Indian Navy voluntarily contributed one day's ration for the affected people.

Sale of powerlooms in Orissa

1979. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to sell all the powerlooms set up in Orissa;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the workers engaged in those powerlooms would be given employment in the powerlooms after privatisation; and

(d) the other steps being taken to protect the interest of these powerloom workers?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Demand for the coarse/Janata cloth in the country

1980. SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any increase in the demand for coarse/Janata cloth in the country;

(b) if so, the percentage gap between demand and supply thereof during the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) the quantum of such cloth produced during the each of the preceding three years?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) to (c) There is no assessment of demand of Janata cloth available but there has been continuous reduction in the

production and supply of Janata cloth in the last three years. Actual production and deliveries of Janata cloth State-wise for the last three years are given in the attached statement.

Statement

(in Million Sq. Mtrs.)

State	1993-94		1994-95		1995-96	
	Actual Production	Delive-ries	Actual Production	Delive-rise	Actual Production	Delive-ries
Andhra Pradesh	37.16	32.07	23.46	30.81	6.92	10.11
Assam	25.90	26.87	25.62	25.09	21.33	20.93
Bihar	7.74	7.02	4.31	3.68	3.58	3.43
Gujarat	3.92	3.98	1.86	1.08	0.42	0.43
Jammu & Kashmir	0.40	0.11	0.52	0.45	0.40	0.40
Karnataka	22.86	23.67	16.72	18.57	23.04	20.26
Madhya Pradesh	14.83	12.83	8.79	10.57	6.30	6.00
Maharashtra	20.24	21.24	16.97	17.89	16.39	16.69
Orissa	10.09	11.25	8.13	0.09	12.24	13.20
Punjab	1.80	1.76	0.50	0.43	0.74	1.01
Rajasthan	5.35	5.21	3.56	4.90	2.02	2.48
Tamil Nadu	39.89	38.88	30.52	31.67	29.40	27.84
Tripura	1.18	1.79	0.57	0.73	1.61	1.22
Uttar Pradesh	42.65	43.45	18.74	15.22	12.92	14.39
West Bengal	16.28	16.34	8.74	10.63	7.75	8.78
	250.29	246.47	169.01	180.81	145.06	147.17

Need to enact fresh Haj Legislation

1981. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the term of present Haj Committee and when the present Committee is due for reconstitution;

(b) whether Government are considering replacing the present Haj Act, which is not relevant in the changed circumstances; and

(c) if so, whether Government would consider appointing a Committee to go into the entire Haj management and suggesting a new law for the Management of Haj?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) The present Haj Committee was constituted in October, 1993. Under the provisions of the Haj Committee Act of 1959, the Committee is constituted for a minimum period of three years. No maximum period is specified in the Act.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Government are cognizant of the fact that, while travel to Saudi Arabia for Haj was undertaken entirely by sea from the port of Mumbai when the Haj Committee Act was enacted in 1959, the ground realities of the management of the pilgrimage have now changed. With pilgrims going entirely by air from Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta, Chennai and Bangalore, there is need to enact fresh Haj legislation. The legislative proposals to be enacted in the Bill are under active consideration and the new Bill would be introduced after all aspects have been examined.